David and Berſheba.

To a pleaſant new Tune.

When David in Jeruſalem
as Royal King did rule and reign,
Behold what happened unto him,
that afterwards procur'd his pain:
On the top of all his Princely Palace,
a gallant proſpect there had he,
From whence he might, when't pleas'd his Grace,
many a gallant garden ſee:

It chanced ſo upon a day,
the King went forth to take the air,
All in the pleaſant month of May,
whereas he eſpy'd a Lady fair,
Her beauty was more excellent,
and brighter than the Morning-ſun,
By which the King incontinent,
was to her favour quickly won.

She ſtood within a pleaſant bower,
all naked for to waſh her there,
Her body like a lilly flower,
was covered with her golden hair:
The King was wounded with her love,
and what ſhe was he did require,
He could not his affections move,
he had in her ſuch great deſire:

She is Uriah's Wife, quoth they,
a Captain of your Princely Train,
That in your wars is now away,
and ſhe doth all alone remain.
Then ſaid the King, Bring her to me,
for with her love my heart is ſlain,
The Princeſs of Beauty ſure is ſhe,
for whom I do great grief ſuſtain.

The Servants they do ſoon prepare,
to do the Meſſage of the King;
And Berſheba, the Lady fair,
unto the Court did quickly bring.
The King rejoyced at her ſight,
and won her love, and lay'd her by,
They ſpent the night in fond delight,
until the ſun was riſen high;

The King his leave moſt kindly took,
till that three months were gone and paſt,
And then again he did return,
with wondrous ſpeed and haſte.
And then the Lady Berſheba,
ſhe found her former health eril'd,
By certain tokens that ſhe ſaw,
the King had gotten her with child:

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Then to the King ſhe made her moan,
and told him how the caſe did ſtand;
The King ſent for her Husband home,
to cloak the matter out of hand.
When from the Camp Uriah came,
the King receiv'd him courteouſly,
Demanding how all things did frame,
concerning of the Enemy:

Uriah ſhew'd his Highneſs all
the accidents of warlike ſtrife;
Then ſaid the King, This night you ſhall
keep company with your own Wife.
The Ark of God, Uriah ſaid,
with Judah's Hoaſt, and Iſrael,
Kæp in the field, and not a Man
within the houſe where they do dwell;

Then ſhould I take my eaſe, (quoth he)
in bed of down with my fair Wife;
O King, he ſaid, that may not be,
ſo long as I enjoy my life.
Then did the King a letter frame,
to Joab, General of the Hoſt,
And by Uriah ſent the ſame,
but certainly his life it coſt.

And when the King for certain knew
Uriah thus had murdered been,
Fair Berſheba to the Court he drew,
and made of her his Royal Quæn:
Then God that ſaw this wicked dæd,
was angry at King David's ſin,
The Prophet Nathan then with ſpæd,
came thus complaining unto him,

O David, ponder what I ſay,
a great abuſe I ſhall the tell,
For thou that rul'ſt in equity,
ſhould ſee the People govern'd well;
Two Men within the City dwell,
the one is rich the other poor,
The rich in cattel doth excel,
the other nothing hath in ſtore,

Having one little filly ſhæp,
which young he did with mony buy,
With his own bread he did it feed,
amongſt his Children tenderly:
The rich Man had a Stranger came
unto his houſe that lov'd him dear,
The poor Man's ſhæp therefore he took
and thereof made his Friend good chear,

Becauſe that he his own would ſpare,
he us'd the Man moſt cruelly.
Then by the Lord, the King did ſwear,
the rich Man for that fault ſhould dye.
Thou art the Man, the Prophet ſaid,
the Princely Crown God gave to thee,
The Lord's Wife, thou thy own haſt made,
and many more of fair beauty:

Why haſt thou ſo defil'd thy life,
and ſlain Uriah with the ſword,
And taken home his wedded Wife,
regarding not God's holy Word?
Therefore behold, thus ſaith the Lord,
Great wars upon thy houſe ſhall be;
Becauſe thou haſt my Laws abhor'd,
much ill be ſure I'll caſt on thee:

I'll take thy Wives before thy face,
and give them to their Neighbours uſe,
And thou thereby ſhall reap diſgrace,
for Man ſhall laugh at thy abuſe.
Then David cryed out piteouſly,
Sore have I ſinned againſt the Lord,
In mercy therefore look on me,
let not my prayers be abhor'd.

But as the Prophet told to him,
ſo did it after chance indeed,
For God did greatly plaugue his ſin,
as in the Bible you may read;
The ſcourge of ſin thus you may ſee,
for murder and adultery;
And grant that we may warned be,
ſuch crying ſins to ſhun and flye.

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